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It is a defining moment because nothing will be like it was before the war. It's now a question to take a very clear stance to support and defend the rules-based order.

European Commission President **Ursula von der Leyen** urges China to protect the world order that made it the second-largest economy in the world



Local residents ride bicycles past flattened civilian cars, as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues, on a street in the town of Bucha, in Kyiv region, Ukraine, on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

### CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IN RAQQA US could have done more: study

AFP, Washington

The US military could have done more to limit civilian casualties and damage during the battle for the Syrian city of Raqqa that marked the Islamic State's fall in 2017, according to a report commissioned by the Pentagon.

At the end of the nearly five-month battle to free the city from IS, "60 to 80 percent" of it was "uninhabitable" and resentment of the population was directed at the liberators, said a report by the research center RAND Corporation.

The US military, which conducted 95 percent of the airstrikes and 100 percent of the artillery fire during the battle, did not commit war crimes during the battle because it tried to respect international laws on the protection of civilians in wartime, but RAND said there was "room for improvement."

So-called "targeted" air strikes and artillery fire by coalition forces on Raqqa caused numerous civilian casualties between June 6 and October 30, 2017: from 744 to 1,600 dead, according to counts by the coalition, Amnesty International, the RAND report said. According to UN figures, 11,000 buildings were destroyed or damaged between February and October 2017, including eight hospitals, 29 mosques, more than 40 schools, five universities and the city's irrigation system.



### KHASHOGGI MURDER Amnesty slams Turkey plan to transfer case



AFP, Ankara

Amnesty International on Friday lambasted any move by Turkey to transfer the Istanbul trial of 26 suspects in the 2018 murder of Saudi critic Jamal Khashoggi to Riyadh.

Khashoggi, a 59-year-old contributor to The Washington Post, was killed inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2, 2018 in a murder that shocked the world and continues to have ramifications today.

Ankara-Riyadh relations worsened significantly after the killing but Turkey has since sought to mend ties with Saudi Arabia to bolster its economy.

"By transferring the case... Turkey will be knowingly and willingly sending the case back into hands of those who bear its responsibility," Amnesty's Secretary General Agnes Callamard said in a statement.

A Turkish prosecutor on Thursday asked to transfer the trial of 26 Saudi officials in absentia after an apparent request by the kingdom. The prosecutor argued the case was "dragging" because the court's orders could not be fulfilled since the defendants were foreigners, the private news agency DHA reported.

But Amnesty's Callamard said the Saudi system "repeatedly failed to cooperate with the Turkish prosecutor and it is clear that justice cannot be delivered by a Saudi court".

Five people were handed death sentences over Khashoggi's killing but a Saudi court in September 2020 overturned them while giving jail terms of up to 20 years to eight unnamed defendants following secretive legal proceedings.

### China to pursue Ukraine peace in its own way

Beijing tells Brussels as Xi hopes for 'independent' EU

REUTERS, Brussels/Beijing

China has offered the European Union assurances that it would seek peace in Ukraine but said this would be on its own terms, deflecting pressure for a tougher stance towards Russia.

Premier Li Keqiang told EU leaders that Beijing would push for peace in "its own way", while President Xi Jinping said he hoped the EU would treat China "independently", in a nod to Europe's close ties with the United States.

The EU told Beijing during the virtual summit with Li and Xi not to allow Moscow to circumvent Western sanctions imposed over Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"We called on China to help end the war in Ukraine. China cannot turn a blind eye to Russia's violation of international law," European Council President Charles Michel told a news briefing with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen after the first EU-China summit since Dec. 30, 2020.

"Any attempts to circumvent sanctions or provide aid to Russia would prolong the war," he said.

Wang Lutong, director-general of European affairs at China's foreign ministry, yesterday said the country is not deliberately circumventing sanctions on Russia.

He told reporters that China is contributing to the global economy by conducting normal trade with Russia.

"China is not a related party on the crisis of Ukraine. We don't think our normal trade with any other country should be affected," he said.

China is forging closer energy, trade and security ties with Moscow, positioning itself as a global force that can stand up to the United States. Several weeks before the Feb. 24 invasion, China and Russia declared a "no-limits" strategic partnership.

Michel said the two sides agreed that the war, which Russia calls a "special military operation", was threatening global security and the global economy.

More than a quarter of China's global trade was with the bloc and the United States last year, against just 2.4 percent with Russia, an EU official said.

China has concerns that European countries are taking harder-line foreign policy cues from Washington and has called for the EU to "exclude external interference" from its relations with China. In 2019, the EU abruptly switched from soft diplomatic language to label China a systemic rival.

The EU, Britain and the United States have sanctioned Chinese officials over alleged human rights abuses in the Xinjiang region, which prompted Beijing to retaliate in kind, freezing an already-negotiated EU-China investment deal.

### US cancels ICBM test over Russia nuclear tensions

REUTERS, Washington

US military has canceled a test of its Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile that it had initially aimed only to delay in a bid to lower nuclear tensions with Russia during the war in Ukraine, the Air Force told Reuters on Friday. The Pentagon first announced a delay of the test on March 2 after Russia said it was putting its nuclear forces on high alert. Air Force spokesperson Ann Stefanek said the decision to cancel the test was due to the same reasons as when it had been first delayed. The next Minuteman III test is scheduled to take place later this year. The nuclear-capable Minuteman III is key part of the US military's strategic arsenal and has a range of 6,000-plus miles and can travel at a speed of approximately 15,000 miles per hour.

### Russia declares top journo and vlogger 'foreign agents'

REUTERS

Russia has declared a prominent journalist, a video blogger and six other media figures "foreign agents", the latest in a series of such moves that critics say are designed to stifle dissent. The expanded list, published by the Justice Ministry late on Friday, included Elizaveta Osetinskaya, former editor-in-chief of several Russian business newspapers that published disclosures about the commercial interests of people close to President Vladimir Putin. It also included Evgeny Ponasenkov, a writer and video blogger. The term "foreign agent" carries negative Soviet-era connotations and subjects those listed to stringent financial reporting requirements.

### Psaki 'leaving White House job for to TV'

AFP, Washington



White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said Friday there are no ethical problems in her remaining in her role after reports that she is in advanced negotiations to switch to a high-profile television job. Multiple US media reports said the chief spokeswoman for President Joe Biden is set to leave soon for a lucrative position on cable news.

According to The New York Times, Psaki could host shows for MSNBC and NBCUniversal's Peacock streaming platform, as well as appearing on the cable network's news shows. CNN had also been chasing Psaki, the report said. Psaki, 43, has been in the press secretary role since the start of Biden's administration in January 2021, when he took over from Donald Trump.



# স্বপ্ন জয়ের বছর



কর্মসংস্থান



স্বল্প ঋণ



প্রযুক্তি নির্ভর ব্যাংকিং



আন্তর্জাতিক পুরস্কার লাভ



প্রবৃদ্ধি



কৃষিখাতে ব্যাংকিং



রিটেইল ব্যাংকিং



দেশব্যাপী নেটওয়ার্ক

⇒ কোটি গ্রাহকের আস্থায়

⇒ সিঙ্গেল ডিজিটের ক্ষুদ্রঋণে কর্মসংস্থান ঘরে ঘরে

⇒ উপশাখার ধারণায় গ্রাম-বাংলার প্রান্তিক মানুষের সেবায়

⇒ হাতের মুঠোয় অনলাইন ব্যাংকিং

এনআরবিসি ব্যাংকের ৯ম প্রতিষ্ঠাবার্ষিকী ও পবিত্র মাঘে রমজান উপলক্ষে সম্মানিত গ্রাহক, আমানতকারী, শেয়ারহোল্ডার, বিনিয়োগকারী, কেন্দ্রীয় ব্যাংকসহ নিয়ন্ত্রক সংস্থাসমূহ ও সংশ্লিষ্ট সবাইকে জানাই আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন।